

AIRTEL

2/9/89

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
 Attn: Criminal Investigative Division  
 Civil Rights Unit  
 Acting  
 FROM: SAC, SAVANNAH  
 SER

REQ Title: (use additional page if necessary)

UNSUBS,  
 OFFICERS OF THE RICHMOND COUNTY, GA  
 POLICE DEPARTMENT;  
 ADRIEENE BROWN - COMPLAINANT;  
 JAMES BROWN - VICTIM;  
 CR(B)  
 OO: SV

Enclosed for CO is one copy of re Bureau airtel and enclosure.

Re: Bureau airtel 1/31/89.

2. Office of Origin File No: 44B - 3846 (include alpha)
3. Auxiliary Office File No: \_\_\_\_\_ (initial submission only)
4.  initial submission  supplemental submission
5. Matter Type: (check more than one if applicable)

A. Brutality  No Brutality

Law Enforcement  Law Enforcement  
 Non-Law Enforcement  Non-Law Enforcement

B. Violence  Racial  Religious  OtherC. ISS Matters  Migrant Victim  OtherD. Known/Suspected Extremist Group  Klan  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Use to describe above (check all applicable)

Arson  Injury  Property damage  
 Death  No injury  Cross burning

6. Date of incident 10/88 7. Date of complaint 1/23/89

8. Synopsis of case:

On 1/23/89, complainant telephoned Assistant Section Chief [REDACTED] FBIHQ, alleging violation of rights of JAMES BROWN by UNSUBS, Officers of Richmond County Police Department, Augusta, Georgia, and by his attorney, all growing out of a confrontation which began in Augusta, and ended with BROWN's tires being shot out in South Carolina. On 2/9/89, complainant advised she had no first-hand knowledge of the situation, but patched her husband through from prison in Columbia, South Carolina, where he is serving his sentence. JAMES BROWN alleges violations were made by South Carolina police, rather than Georgia. Complainant to be interviewed 2/10/89. Victim requests to be interviewed at Columbia.

9. Significant case  Yes  No (if yes, provide reason) \_\_\_\_\_

19 FEB 13 1989

## Remarks/Administrative

- (2) - Bureau  
 2 - Columbia (Enc. 1)  
 2 - Savannah

ABG:dse  
 (6)

Date	Entered	Indexed	Serialized	Filed

10 MAR 3 1989

RECEIVED  
CRIMINAL  
INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION

S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
FD-204

## I. PURPOSE

The FD-610 is designed to promptly provide FBIHQ with a complete set of pertinent facts for each Civil Rights case investigated by the FBI. Data is directly entered into a computer which will assist in more effective, efficient, and economical management of the Civil Rights Program by FBIHQ and the field. ~~Each office~~ <sup>and the field office</sup> ~~must~~ <sup>will</sup> ~~MUST~~ correctly complete ALL items requested on the form either on the initial submission, or later by supplemental submission prior to the close of the case. Title changes should be submitted by report or FD-610, whichever is more appropriate.

## II. WHEN TO SUBMIT

The FD-610 is to be submitted in all cases supervised by the Civil Rights Unit, which include the following classifications: 44-CR; 50-ISS; 173-CRA 1964; 177-DIH; 187-Privacy Act of 1974-Criminal; 189-ECOA; 204-FRS; 214-CRIPA. The FD-610 should be, in most cases, the initial communication advising FBIHQ of the initiation of the investigation. In all instances, the FD-610 should be submitted within 5 working days of receipt of the complaint; however, the urgency of the situation may require a prior telephone call or teletype to FBIHQ.

## III. DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS REGARDING ITEM #4 ON THE FD-610

- Initial -** Should be checked if it is the first FD-610 submitted in the case. Every attempt should be made to provide all the information required on the initial submission; however, the initial submission of the FD-610 should not be held in abeyance while awaiting data which will be obtained on a later date. The auxiliary office (AO) should submit the initial FD-610 when they receive the original complaint with two copies designated to the office of origin.
- Supplemental -** This should be checked whenever a subsequent FD-610 is submitted. When submitting a supplemental FD-610, provide data only for those items requiring a change. Instances requiring a supplemental submission are: when previously unknown data is obtained, data was previously omitted, or data was previously incorrectly reported. The supplemental FD-610 should be used as the cover communication for the submission of LHM's.

## IV. SIGNIFICANT CASE

Significant cases are those receiving extensive media attention, involving a prominent individual or involving FBI personnel as the subject or victim. Significant cases are also those wherein FBI investigation has determined the allegations to be serious and substantial thus warranting a full investigation. When prosecution becomes imminent, FBIHQ should be advised promptly and a supplemental FD-610 should be submitted designating the case "significant" if not already so designated.

SV 44B-3846

LEADS

COLUMBIA

AT COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

Interview JAMES BROWN at the state prison, Columbia,  
South Carolina.

SAVANNAH

AT AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

Investigation continuing.

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype  
 Facsimile  
 Airtel

## PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate  
 Priority  
 Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET  
 SECRET  
 CONFIDENTIAL  
 UNCLAS E F T O  
 UNCLAS

Date 2/27/89

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
 FROM: ACTING SAC, SAVANNAH (44B-3846)(P)  
 SUBJECT: CHANGED:  
UNSUBS,  
OFFICERS, AUGUSTA, GEORGIA, POLICE  
DEPARTMENT AND NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA,  
POLICE DEPARTMENT;  
ADRIENNE BROWN - COMPLAINANT;  
JAMES BROWN - VICTIM;  
CIVIL RIGHTS. (B)  
 OO: SV

Title marked "Changed" to add North Augusta, South Carolina, Police Department, as subject, and to correct spelling of complainant's first name. Case formerly captioned "UNSUBS, OFFICERS OF THE RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA, POLICE DEPARTMENT; ADRIEENE BROWN - COMPLAINANT; JAMES BROWN - VICTIM; CR(B); OO:SV."

Re Savannah FD-610, 2/9/89; and Bureau airtel,  
 1/31/89.

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and two copies of an LHM dated and captioned as above. In addition, two copies of the LHM are enclosed for Columbia and one copy is being furnished to the USA's Office in Savannah.

By referenced Savannah communication, Columbia was set a lead to interview victim at South Carolina prison. Savannah will maintain case in pending status until receipt of Columbia communication.

1-CID-CR4

2 - Bureau (Enc. 3) ENCLOSURE  
 2 - Columbia (Enc. 2)  
 2 - Savannah

DE-314

44-115189-2

ABG:kpk  
 (6)

1-CID-CR4  
 1-CID-DOJ  
 6-94 3/9/89

A,B  
 w/TC

3 MAR 3 1989

55

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ Per \_\_\_\_\_

(Number)	(Time)
Searched	
Serialized	
Indexed	
Filed	

SV 44B-3846

LEAD

COLUMBIA DIVISION

AT COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

Furnish results of interview of victim, consider contact with USA, Columbia, for possible referral to USDJ, in view of allegations which occurred in South Carolina.



**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

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In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Savannah, Georgia

February 27, 1989

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS,  
OFFICERS,  
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA, POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND  
NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA, POLICE DEPARTMENT;  
ADRIENNE BROWN - COMPLAINANT;  
JAMES BROWN - VICTIM;  
CIVIL RIGHTS

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On February 10, 1989, ADRIENNE BROWN was interviewed at the Augusta, Georgia, Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. She furnished the following information:

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

- 1 -

44-115189-2  
ENCLOSURE

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

2/14/89

Date of transcription \_\_\_\_\_

ADRIENNE L. BROWN, born March 9, 1950, was interviewed by appointment at the Augusta, Georgia office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). She was accompanied by a friend whom she identified as [redacted]. Mrs. BROWN stated that she is the wife of entertainer JAMES BROWN and wished to furnish information concerning what she believes is a pattern of harassment on the part of law enforcement officers against her husband which has been going on for about one and one-half years.

Mrs. BROWN recalled that the first incident which led her to believe her husband was being harassed took place about 9:30 PM one night when she and JAMES BROWN were driving toward their home in Beech Island, South Carolina, along Highway 278. They were passing through Richmond County, Georgia, on their way home when they bumped into the rear bumper of a car which had stopped in the roadway. The bumper of the other car was bent in a minor way, and the BROWNS' van stalled. Other people at the scene helped JAMES BROWN get the car started by "jump starting" the engine. As the BROWNS drove off, they heard someone yell, "That's James Brown." The car which they had bumped began to follow them and a police officer pulled the van over after they entered South Carolina. When JAMES BROWN asked what he had done to be pulled over, the officer ordered him out of his car in a very unpleasant manner. The officer then threw JAMES BROWN against the car and ordered him to spread his legs.

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b7C

Mrs. BROWN stated that her husband tried to ask what he had done, but the officer replied that he did not want to hear it and that he would arrest BROWN. BROWN and the officer then "got into it" as a second police car arrived. BROWN tried to tell the officer that they should contact Aiken County, South Carolina [redacted] and discuss this matter, but the officer would not listen. BROWN and the officer were "fighting like cats and dogs" and at one point Mrs. BROWN was pushed back into the side of the van and was threatened with arrest. Three police officers then put BROWN into the floor of the police car, after having tied his hands behind him with some kind of wire. Mrs. BROWN followed the police car as it took BROWN to the police station, and recalled that it stopped for several minutes at a market where the police officers spoke among themselves.

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Investigation on 2/10/89 at Augusta, Georgia File # SV 44B-3846

by SA [redacted]

dse

Date dictated 2/13/89

- 2 -

SV 44B-3846

Continuation of FD-302 of

ADRIENNE L. BROWN

On 2/10/89

, Page 2

At the jail, BROWN was taken inside while Mrs. BROWN watched through the outside glass walls. BROWN later told Mrs. BROWN that one of the police had hit him in the mouth during questioning which followed. BROWN told her that he could identify the individual who hit him if he should see him, but did not know the individual's name. BROWN was kept at the jail from about 11:00 PM, until the following 8:00 AM. During that time, Mrs. BROWN called [redacted] her husband, but [redacted] said he could do nothing until morning. Through the involvement of a friend, [redacted] BROWN was released a few hours later upon payment of a \$180 bond. BROWN told Mrs. BROWN that only two of the police officers had treated him unfairly.

The second incident began about a month after the one mentioned above. BROWN had been depressed for about a month, feeling that people in the area were down on him due to his reputation and also some business problems. On this occasion, he and Mrs. BROWN had a disagreement and BROWN yelled at her. She called police and asked that someone come by to calm JAMES down, and this was done. No charges were made against BROWN, but Mrs. BROWN believes that the police may have started thinking that BROWN was a chronic problem of some sort.

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About a week later, neighbors near the BROWNS' 33 acre home reported hearing gunshots and thought there may have been problems of some sort. Mrs. BROWN stated that BROWN sometimes fired his guns for relaxation on his property, as he had done on this occasion. Police responding to the neighbors' call stopped BROWN and later arrested him for carrying a shotgun in his auto and for resisting arrest. BROWN went to court and received a suspended sentence as well as a period of probation. He was directed to put on a concert for the benefit of crippled children, which he did, but which was a failure due to the fear of the local black population of the police, who boycotted the concert.

The next incident happened about September 23, 1988, on a Saturday. BROWN, whose drivers license had been revoked, had driven to his office at [redacted] Road, Augusta, Georgia, in his pickup truck. When he got there, he found that an insurance class was going on in his office, and that someone had obtained the key to his private bathroom and was using the facilities. Not knowing who the people were, BROWN took an

SV 44B-3846

Continuation of FD-302 of ADRIENNE L. BROWN, On 2/10/89, Page 3

unloaded and inoperative shotgun into the office where the meeting was going on, put the shotgun against the wall, and asked who had given permission for anyone to use his facilities. Mrs. BROWN noted that just before this had happened, BROWN had undergone oral surgery for the third time in a month. BROWN was in considerable pain and was taking several types of medicine. He was also agitated, could not sit still, and had difficulty concentrating.

When BROWN asked the people in the class who had given them permission to use the office and where they had gotten the key to the bathroom, no one answered him and he told them to get out. They would not, and BROWN decided to go and talk about the matter to [redacted] of Richmond County, Georgia. As he left, the shotgun was still standing against the wall, but someone in the meeting called him back to get it. As BROWN left the office area and neared Washington Road, which leads downtown to the Sheriff's Department, a police car passed him. The policeman waved to BROWN, but did not have his siren or blue lights on, so BROWN waved back and continued on. A second police car got behind BROWN, but again without lights or siren. BROWN admitted that he speeded up as the cars followed him, but said that he police car had chased him into speeding.

BROWN drove into South Carolina over the Interstate 20 bridge, then turned off that highway onto Martintown Road, proceeding in the direction of downtown Augusta, Georgia, still being chased by Georgia police cars.

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Mrs. BROWN stated that her husband, due to pain, anger, frustration, and medication, did not stop as soon as he should have, as he did not see the blue lights of the police car as soon as someone else, not on medication, would have. At the intersection of Martintown Road and Atomic Road, North Augusta, South Carolina, BROWN pulled into a parking lot and stopped. Three Georgia police cars pulled in behind him and one police officer came to the passenger side of the pickup and broke out the side window with his nightstick. [redacted] an Aiken County Sheriff's Deputy and friend of the BROWNS, then approached the pickup and started to explain to BROWN what was going on. As he did so, however, two police officers got in front of BROWN's pickup and started shooting at it. Mrs. BROWN stressed that her husband was not armed, that the shotgun in his truck was not loaded and did not work anyway. Police fired a total of 23 shots, 17 of which hit the truck. Police also tried to pull

SV 44B-3846

Continuation of FD-302 of ADRIENNE L. BROWN

, On 2/10/89 , Page 4

BROWN out of the truck, even as he was telling [redacted] that he was on his way to see [redacted]. Fearing for his life, BROWN then drove away. Although police claimed otherwise, BROWN did not try to back over any of the police cars, just pulled the truck forward and out of the parking lot. Since his tires had been shot out, he could not go faster than 30-35 miles per hour.

BROWN drove from North Augusta, South Carolina, to Augusta, Georgia, and police officers admitted at the trial later that they had followed BROWN, but had not chased him. BROWN drove to the residence of [redacted] who lives on [redacted] At [redacted]

[redacted] residence, JAMES BROWN was arrested and taken to the Richmond County Jail. He agreed to return to South Carolina, and on the way the South Carolina police told him that he had to get a blood sample taken. Not realizing that he should have had a second sample taken to be analyzed by a private laboratory, BROWN agreed to do what police told him he had to do. When the police sample was analyzed, they first said that BROWN's blood contained cocaine, then later said that it had PCP in it. Mrs. BROWN advised that she knows from reading that PCP can show up in the blood of a person who breathes the second-hand smoke of a person smoking PCP. She is sure her husband never used PCP, as he has always campaigned against the use of drugs in any form.

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BROWN was taken to Aiken, South Carolina, and was released to Mrs. BROWN at 10:00 PM or 11:00 PM, after the magistrate told Mrs. BROWN that some of the police had received improper training. She returned to their home with BROWN, who was still restless and in pain. After BROWN finally went to sleep, Mrs. BROWN napped and awoke a couple of hours later to find BROWN missing. After looking for him on the property, she returned to their house and shortly received a call informing her that BROWN had been arrested in Augusta, Georgia. She was told that BROWN had driven to the Georgia War Veterans' Home in Augusta, where his father is hospitalized. Police arrested BROWN for driving without a license, for speeding, and for yelling at some people, although he was just upset at seeing his father in the hospital. BROWN was released from the Richmond County Jail that same day.

On November 21, 1988, BROWN went on trial in Aiken, South Carolina, before Judge LONG. BROWN had returned from a European tour only a day or two earlier, and was not prepared for the trial. The judge failed to grant a motion to change the

SV 44B-3846

Continuation of FD-302 of ADRIENNE L. BROWN, On 2/10/89 , Page 5

venue of the trial, even though it was shown that some 90 articles and news broadcasts concerning BROWN had been printed or aired during a 30-day period, all of which stories carried the police version of what had happened. The judge was very involved in picking the jury which tried BROWN, and did not take steps to protect the jurors from hearing about the trial. He also required BROWN to spend each night in jail, even though BROWN had already returned from Europe to be present for the trial. During the course of the trial, the District Attorney used trickery to plant false thoughts in the minds of the jury, and the police told conflicting stories, some of which had been written down in report form several days after the incident. BROWN took the stand and admitted that he had not stopped for the blue lights soon enough, but denied trying to hurt anyone and said he had been frightened and had driven off to keep from being shot.

At the conclusion of the trial, the jury found BROWN guilty and he was later sentenced to six years in prison. Mrs. BROWN felt that the sentence was unjust, as a 19 year old white man had received only six months on a second offense of the same kind that BROWN received six years for.

On January 23, 1989, BROWN went to trial in Richmond County, Georgia, on eleven traffic violations resulting from the same incident which began at the business office on Stevens Creek Road and from the arrest at the War Veterans' Home. [redacted]  
[redacted] him in this action and BROWN pleaded guilty. The judge sentenced BROWN to a six-year prison term, to run concurrent with the South Carolina sentence.

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Mrs. BROWN advised that her husband has a long history of service to the United States and she feels his six-year sentence is unfair and based on racial considerations. She wished to make this information available to the United States Department of Justice in an effort to see her husband released from jail.

Complainant

The following descriptive information was obtained through observation and interview: AdRIENNE BROWN

Name

ADRIENNE L. BROWN,  
Nee MODELL

Race

Black

Sex

Female

Date of Birth

March 9, 1950GA

Res: 430 Douglas Dr  
Boat Island SC

SV 44B-3846

Continuation of FD-302 of

ADRIENNE L. BROWN

, On 2/10/89

, Page 6

Residence	430 Douglas Drive Beech Island, South Carolina 19841
Home Telephone	(803) 827-[REDACTED]
Business	Top Notch, Incorporated [REDACTED] Road
Business Telephone	Suite 116 Augusta, Georgia 30907 (404) 733-[REDACTED]

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS, OFFICERS,  
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA, POLICE DEPARTMENT

On February 23, 1989, the facts of this matter were discussed with Assistant United States Attorney D. GREGORY WEDDLE, Southern District of Georgia, Augusta, Georgia, who advised that he saw no apparent prosecutive merit in the allegations, but that he would defer to the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice.

FBI

**TRANSMIT VIA:**

- Teletype
  - Facsimile
  - Airtel

#### **PRECEDENCE:**

- Immediate
  - Priority
  - Routine

**CLASSIFICATION:**

- TOP SECRET  
 SECRET  
 CONFIDENTIAL  
 UNCLAS E F T O  
 UNCLAS

AS  
2/27/89

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, COLUMBIA (44B-SV-3846) (P)

UNSUBS,  
OFFICERS OF THE RICHMOND COUNTY  
GEORGIA POLICE DEPARTMENT;  
ADRIEENE BROWN - COMPLAINANT;  
JAMES C. BROWN - VICTIM;  
CIVIL RIGHTS;  
OO: SV

Re Bureau airtel to Savannah, 1/3/89, and Savannah  
airtel (FD-610) to the Bureau 2/9/89.

UACB, Columbia Division will delay interview of victim per lead in re Savannah airtel until receipt by Columbia of Savannah interview of complainant.

1 - Bureau  
12 1 - Savannah (44B-3846) (Info)  
2 - Columbia

14 | ARG/gmb  
(5)

1 \*

b6  
b7c

44-115189-3

MAR 6 1989

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ **Per** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number) (Time)

**Memorandum**

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



To : Assistant Attorney General  
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION  
Attn: Criminal Section

Date 3/9/89

From : Director, FBI

UNSUBS,  
Subject : OFFICERS OF THE RICHMOND COUNTY  
GEORGIA POLICE DEPARTMENT;  
JAMES BROWN - VICTIM;  
ADRIEENE BROWN - COMPLAINANT;  
CIVIL RIGHTS  
OO: SAVANNAH

Field Office File Number 44 B - 3846

DOJ File Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Reference:**

Enclosed is one copy of: Savannah LHM dated 2/27/89.

- Also enclosed is an Internal Affairs Report
- A. This is the initial communication in this matter:

Type matter (Initial communication only)

- Brutality - Law Enforcement
- Brutality - Nonlaw Enforcement
- No Brutality - Law Enforcement
- No Brutality - Nonlaw Enforcement
- Racial Violence
- ISS Matter
- Death Case

B. FBI Status-Pending

C. FBI Status-Closed

D. This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by the Federal Bureau of Investigation unless specifically requested by the Department of Justice.

E. Due to the nature of this matter, it should receive your expeditious attention. Please contact the Civil Rights Unit, FBIHQ, Attn: \_\_\_\_\_

Enc (1) POG:ljc

44-115189-4

REC'D MAY 5 1989

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 1989	
FBI - ATLANTA	

3/10/89 INITIAL JC

256

# Memorandum



Subject

Notice of File Closing  
CIVIL RIGHTS MATTER

Date

6/9/89

To

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

From

James P. Turner, Acting  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

This is to inform you that as of this date your field office file numbered SV-44B-3846 dated 3/9/89 has been filed.

The victim in this matter is James Brown.

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b7c

44-115189-5

Recd	Date	Inmate
Entered	16	JUN 26 1989
Modified		
Comments		

RJ 9/88

FBI

**TRANSMIT VIA:**

- Teletype  
 Facsimile  
 AIRTEL

## **PRECEDENCE:**

- Immediate
  - Priority
  - Routine

**CLASSIFICATION:**

- TOP SECRET  
 SECRET  
 CONFIDENTIAL  
 UNCLAS E F T O  
 UNCLAS

Date 6/9/89

1 TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
2 FROM : SAC, COLUMBIA (44A-SV-3846) (RUC)  
3 SUBJECT: UNSUBS,  
4 OFFICERS,  
5 AUGUSTA, GEORGIA POLICE DEPARTMENT AND  
6 NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA POLICE DEPT.;  
7 ADRIENNE BROWN, COMPLAINANT;  
JAMES JOSEPH BROWN, aka  
James Brown - Victim  
CIVIL RIGHTS  
OO: SV

Re CO airtel to BU, 3/29/89.

In view of the fact that Columbia has no outstanding  
leads, this case is being considered RUC.

b6  
b7c

(2) - Bureau  
2 - Savannah (44B-SV-3846)  
1 - Columbia  
JHK:dsb

( 5 )

1\*

OE-123

44-115189-6

10 JUN 12 1989

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

~~Received  
Entered  
Modified  
Researched~~

1

**Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Transmitted** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number) (Time)

Pen

**AIRTEL**

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
 Attn: Criminal Investigative Division  
 Civil Rights Unit  
*w/jy*  
 ACTING  
 FROM: SAC, SAVANNAH (44B-3846)(C)

DATE: 4/11/89

## 1. Title: (use additional page if necessary)

UNSUBS,  
 OFFICERS,  
 AUGUSTA, GEORGIA POLICE DEPARTMENT  
 AND NORTH AUGUSTA, SC POLICE DEPARTMENT;  
 ADRIENNE BROWN - COMPLAINANT;  
 JAMES JOSEPH BROWN, aka  
 James Brown - VICTIM;  
 CR(B)  
 OO: SV

Re: CO airtel and LHM dated 3/29/89.

2. Office of Origin File No: 44B-3846 (include alpha)  
 3. Auxiliary Office File No: \_\_\_\_\_ (initial submission only)  
 4. \_\_\_\_\_ initial submission  supplemental submission  
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## Use to describe above (check all applicable)

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 Death  No injury  Cross burning

6. Date of incident \_\_\_\_\_

7. Date of complaint \_\_\_\_\_

8. Synopsis of case:

INDEX

9. Significant case  Yes  No (if yes, provide reason) \_\_\_\_\_

## Remarks/Administrative

UACB, Savannah placing case in closed status to await decision of FBIHQ or CR Division, DOJ, re additional investigation. *PA*

② - Bureau  
 1 - Savannah

ABG:dse

(3)

CIVIL RIGHTS  
UNIT

4-18 2-3 AM '80

RECEIVED FBI

**I. PURPOSE**

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OGC:tryj 1/25/89

[redacted]  
to [redacted]

JAMES BROWN COMPLAINANT  
RICHMOND COUNTY GEORGIA  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

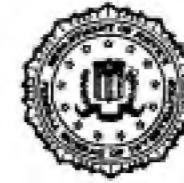
PURP: To adv of a telephone call rec'd frm  
ADRIENNE BROWN, wife of capt emply,  
concerng a complaint of viol of capt  
emply's civil rights.

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REC: None, for infor.

# Memorandum



Exec AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Exec AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Exec AD LES \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Insp. \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Lab. \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Off. Cong. & Public Affs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Rec. Mgmt. \_\_\_\_\_  
Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Off. Liaison & Int. Affs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

SSP

CLASS

SRC'D

SER

REC

From :

[REDACTED]

Date 1/25/89

Subject :

JAMES BROWN  
COMPLAINANT  
RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CIVIL RIGHTS MATTER

PURPOSE: To advise of a telephone call received from ADRIENNE BROWN, wife of singer JAMES BROWN, concerning a complaint of violation of JAMES BROWN's civil rights.

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DETAILS: On 1/23/89, ADRIENNE BROWN, wife of singer JAMES BROWN, telephonically (404-733-[REDACTED]) contacted SA [REDACTED] Assistant Section Chief, Response Section, Identification Division, and expressed concern that her husband's civil rights had been violated, first by the Richmond County, Georgia Police Department and lastly by his Attorney. Mrs. BROWN advised she had obtained SA [REDACTED] name from a friend at the Atlanta Police Department.

Mrs. BROWN advised that in October, 1988, her husband went to a seminar in Augusta, Georgia. While there, several Richmond County, Georgia Police Officers, for no known reason, started harrassing him. Mr. BROWN was armed and when the officers learned this, they went after him. He exited the area which led to a chase into the state of South Carolina. Officers in South Carolina claimed that Mr. BROWN allegedly tried to run over two officers who had set up a road block. Mrs. BROWN claims that her husband indicated the incident did not happen that way, that it is true that he attempted to flee from the Georgia Officers; however, there was no road block. The South Carolina Officers were in hiding and shot out Mr. BROWN's front tires as he entered their area. Mrs. BROWN advised that Mr. BROWN feared for his life and tried to get away from the Officers who were shooting at him. According to her husband, Mrs. BROWN states the Georgia Officers, who appeared at the indictment in Aiken, South Carolina, in connection with the police chase had advised the South Carolina Officers that Mr. BROWN had attempted to kill the Georgia Officers and was armed and dangerous. The Georgia Officers stated this as the reason they shot out Mr. BROWN's tires. The lie the Georgia Officers started led to the incident.

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30 MAR 1 1989

At the arraignment, Mr. BROWN entered an innocent plea for the traffic and weapon charges. Mrs. BROWN feels her husband's civil rights were violated by his lawyer because the lawyer changed the innocent plea to guilty causing Mr. BROWN to be sentenced to six years in jail. Mrs. BROWN would like the FBI to look into this matter.

*RGA*

Enclosures (2)

1 - Mr. F. I. Clarke (Attn: [REDACTED], Rm. 5131, TL-233) - Enc. (2)  
1 - [REDACTED] Rm. 9961, TL# 345 - Enc. (2)

OGC:trjy  
(3)

(CONTINUED - OVER)

Memorandum from [redacted]

RE: JAMES BROWN  
COMPLAINANT  
RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CIVIL RIGHTS MATTER

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SA [redacted] advised Mrs. BROWN of their appeal rights and that it was a matter that would have to be settled by the Court of Appeals. Based on the information provided by Mrs. BROWN, there is no violation of Federal law by the Richmond County, Georgia Police Department, nor Mr. BROWN's Attorney. It was also recommended that she call the Bar Association concerning the complaint she has about the Attorney. She was also advised that if she wished to pursue the matter, she could contact FBI, Atlanta or the United States Attorney's Office in Atlanta.

RECOMMENDATION: None, for information.

APPROVED:	Adm. Servs. _____	Off. of Cong. & Public Affs. _____
Sector _____	Crim. Inv. _____	Off. of Lia. & Int'l Affs. _____
Spec. AD-Adm. _____	Ident. _____	Rec. Mgmt. Tech. Servs. _____
Spec. AD-Inv. _____	Inspection _____	Tech. Servs. _____
Spec. AD-LEG _____	Lab. & Corp. _____	Training _____
	Legal Coun. _____	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**Singer James Brown Enters  
Innocent Pleas In Court**

Godfather of Soul James Brown's lawyer recently entered innocent pleas on traffic and weapons charges against Brown and also asked for a jury trial.

Brown, who is currently on a European concert tour, was arrested and charged in September after a two-state police chase (JET, Nov. 21).

The earliest possible date for a jury trial would be in January, according to H. Scott Allen, chief assistant solicitor in Richmond County, Ga.



James Brown

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Jet Magazine  
Page 33

Date: November 21, 1988  
Edition:

Title: Singer James Brown Enters  
Innocent Pleas in Court

Character:

or

Classification:  
Submitting Office:

Indexing:

44-115189-8  
FBI/DOJ  
LABORATORY

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**James Brown Indicted In  
Ga., S.C. Cop Car Chase**

Godfather of Soul James Brown was recently indicted in Aiken, S.C., in connection with a police chase that started in Georgia and crossed into South Carolina.

Brown, 55, was charged with two counts of assault and battery with intent to kill and one count of failure to stop for a police car. He was charged earlier in Georgia over the incident.

Police said Brown entered a seminar in Augusta carrying a gun and then led police on the chase (JET, Oct. 10).

Brown allegedly tried to run over two officers who were setting up a roadblock. The officers reportedly shot out Brown's front tires, but he kept driving.

A trial has been set for December, Brown was on a European concert tour at press time.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Jet Magazine

Page 60

Date: December 5, 1988

Edition:

Title: James Borwn Indicted In  
Ga., S. C. Cop Car Chase

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

Indexing:

44-15189-8

SSB  
CLASS  
SRC'D  
SER  
REC

AIRTEL

1/31/89

Director, FBI

SAC, Savannah

UNSUBS,  
OFFICERS OF THE RICHMOND  
COUNTY, GEORGIA POLICE DEPARTMENT;  
*QA* ADRIENNE BROWN - COMPLAINANT;  
JAMES BROWN - VICTIM;  
CIVIL RIGHTS;  
OO: SAVANNAH

Enclosed for Savannah are two copies of a memorandum  
(with attachments) dated 1/25/89 documenting telephone contact by  
Adrienne Brown with FBIHQ officials.

On 1/23/89, Adrienne Brown, wife of entertainer James Brown, telephonically contacted Assistant Section Chief [REDACTED] Response Section, Identification Division, FBIHQ [REDACTED] alleging that her husband's civil rights had been violated by the Richmond County, Georgia, Police Department and his attorney, as a result of a confrontation with law enforcement officers in October, 1988, at Augusta, Georgia. Information presented by Brown during the telephone contact is set forth in the enclosed communication, to include information regarding Brown's arrest and later indictment in Aiken, South Carolina.

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Initial information obtained during the telephone call was presented to Deputy Chief Daniel L. Bell, Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice on 1/27/89 for a preliminary opinion as to whether or not the information supported the initiation of an investigation. Deputy Chief Bell opined that the information is not of sufficient specificity to make such a determination and he requested that the Bureau conduct a limited investigation to ascertain the allegation and facts known to the complainant constituting the civil rights complaint.

44-115789-9

Exec AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Exec AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Exec AD LES \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.:  
Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Insp. \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Lab. \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Off. Cong. & Public Affs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Rec. Mgmt. \_\_\_\_\_  
Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Off. Liaison & Int. Affs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Secy. \_\_\_\_\_  
MAIL ROOM   
WCB/pmd (7)

Savannah is requested to conduct a limited investigation consisting of an interview of Adrienne Brown to determine the specific civil rights violations alleged to have been perpetrated against her husband. Following the interview of Adrienne Brown, Savannah is to make a determination as to whether or not victim James Brown should be interviewed prior to the submission of the field office findings in this matter.

2 - Savannah - Enclosures (2)

MAR 1 1989

Airtel from Director, FBI to SAC, Savannah, dated 1/31/89

This request has been reviewed by the Civil Rights Unit, FBIHQ, and unless reasons exist to the contrary, you are to complete the requested investigation in accordance with the provisions of Section 44, Manual of Investigative Operations and Guidelines and submit results within 21 workdays of the receipt of this communication.

Submit FD-610 within 5 workdays of receipt of this airtel.

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype  
 Facsimile  
 Airtel

## PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate  
 Priority  
 Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET  
 SECRET  
 CONFIDENTIAL  
 UNCLAS E F T O  
 UNCLAS

Date 3/29/89

SD

1 TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

2 FROM: SAC, COLUMBIA (44A-SV-3846)

3 SUBJECT: "CHANGED"

4 UNSUBS,  
OFFICERS,

5 AUGUSTA, GEORGIA POLICE DEPARTMENT AND  
NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA POLICE  
DEPARTMENT; *6-94-45*

6 ADRIENNE BROWN - COMPLAINANT;  
JAMES JOSEPH BROWN, aka

7 James Brown - VICTIM;  
CIVIL RIGHTS;

8 OO:SV

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b7C

9 Title marked "Changed" to show the full name of the  
10 victim. Title formally shown as UNSUBS, OFFICERS, AUGUSTA  
GEORGIA POLICE DEPARTMENT AND NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA  
POLICE DEPARTMENT; ADRIENNE BROWN - COMPLAINANT; JAMES BROWN -  
11 VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS.

12 Re Savannah airtel to the Bureau, February 27, 1989.  
*44-11589-10*

13 Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and two copies  
of an LHM re captioned matter. Two copies of same LHM being  
furnished to the Savannah Division. One copy of the LHM is being  
furnished to the United States Attorney, Columbia, South  
Carolina, as well as LHM enclosed in re airtel.

14 UACB no contact is being made by the Columbia Division  
with the United States Attorney, District of South Carolina, at  
this time for opinion as to prosecutive potential due to the lack  
of investigation upon which to base such an opinion.

15 *(OCCD-CR4) (OCCD CR4) 6-94 4/13/89*  
 16 2 - Bureau (Enc. 3) *(OCCD CR4) 6-94 4/13/89*  
 17 2 - Savannah (44B-SV-3846) (Enc. 2) *B*  
 18 2 - Columbia *wcb/45*

19 ARG:lms  
(6)

Date *4/13/89*

Received \_\_\_\_\_

Entered \_\_\_\_\_

Amended \_\_\_\_\_

Complete \_\_\_\_\_

Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_

(Number) \_\_\_\_\_

Per \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

*288*

44A-SV-3846

Columbia Division is maintaining this matter in pending status in anticipation of further direction from the Bureau.



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Columbia, South Carolina  
March 29, 1989

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS,  
OFFICERS,  
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA POLICE DEPARTMENT AND  
NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA POLICE  
DEPARTMENT;  
ADRIENNE BROWN - COMPLAINANT;  
JAMES JOSEPH BROWN - VICTIM;  
CIVIL RIGHTS

On March 15, 1989, JAMES JOSEPH BROWN, inmate, was interviewed at State Park Correctional Center, Columbia, South Carolina. Results of this interview are as follows.

44-115187-10

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3/28/89

JAMES JOSEPH BROWN, inmate, State Park Correctional Center, Columbia, South Carolina, was interviewed concerning an alleged Civil Rights violation. He was advised that any information he furnished could be used in a Court of Law. BROWN thereafter furnished the following information:

BROWN advised that approximately one and a half years ago he and his wife, ADRIENNE BROWN, were in his van on Highway 278, Aiken County, South Carolina, and had just crossed the Sandbar Ferry Bridge. At this time they noted that a vehicle which appeared to be inoperative was parked on the shoulder of the roadway by the bridge. BROWN drove up behind this vehicle in anticipation of giving the vehicle a push with his van. In doing so he bumped into the rear bumper of the stalled vehicle. As a result, BROWN's van also stalled. A passing motorist helped BROWN start his vehicle. There were young people at the scene who saw that it was JAMES BROWN and BROWN not wanting to get involved with the excitement quickly left the scene. No damage had been done to the vehicle that he had attempted to assist. BROWN continued on toward his residence in Beech Island, South Carolina. When he was near his residence he was pulled over by an Aiken County Deputy Sheriff using a blue light. BROWN stopped his vehicle, exited from it and was then told by the Deputy to produce his drivers license. BROWN produced his Georgia drivers license. BROWN stated that the deputy's demeanor was quite rude and impolite. The deputy then called for backup policemen. BROWN stated that he assumes that he was stopped because of the small collision he had had with the stalled vehicle earlier near the bridge, however, when posing this question to the deputy, the deputy would not answer. At this time BROWN told the deputy that he wanted to speak with a lawyer. The deputy then grabbed BROWN's arm and threw him to the ground. BROWN attempted to get up, however, the deputy was holding him face down. At this time other policemen arrived on the scene (possibly four others). BROWN's hands were pulled behind his back and his wrists were secured to each other very tightly with silver colored wired. BROWN, at this point, began to fear for his life and because of this began to struggle. He then was placed on the rear seat of a police vehicle on his knees with his hands still tied behind his back. He remained in this position for approximately forty-five minutes while the vehicle made at least two stops before taking him to the Aiken County Jail.

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b7CInvestigation on 3/15/89 at Columbia, South Carolina File # 44A-SV-3846By SA [redacted] /lms Date dictated 3/22/89

44A-SV-3846

Continuation of FD-302 of JAMES JOSEPH BROWN On 3/15/89 Page 2

When arriving at the jail, BROWN was taken out of the police vehicle and because of his being in the kneeing position for so long he had difficulty walking. The wire was then removed from his wrists. He was then booked and charged with speeding and other charges which BROWN cannot recall. BROWN remained in the Aiken County Jail overnight and released the next day on bond. BROWN stated that at the time of this incident, he had not been drinking nor was he under the influence of drugs.

On a later date, date not remembered, BROWN pled guilty for which he received a suspended sentence. He was sentenced to give a free crippled children concert. This was done.

BROWN stated that at a later date on a Saturday, date not recalled, he drove his pick up truck to his office in Executive Park, Augusta, Georgia. When arriving he noticed that the parking lot was full with automobiles. When arriving at his office he observed that his bathroom door was open. Thinking that possibly there had been a break-in he went back to his truck in the parking lot, got his shot gun and took it back to his office. He then learned that there was a meeting going on somewhere in the office complex and that the attendees of this meeting had been using the bathroom in his office. BROWN was extremely upset about this and began questioning those in attendance as to the reason for using his facility. During this time BROWN had placed his shot gun in the corner of his office in full view. BROWN then asked for the return of his keys, received same and then locked the bathroom door. He then left his office with the shot gun, placed it in the pick up truck and began driving his truck on I-20 into South Carolina. After crossing into South Carolina, he left the interstate and turned onto Martintown Road in North Augusta, South Carolina. At this location he observed that a road block had been set up by two police vehicles in a "V" shape. BROWN seeing this drove around the police road block to avoid hitting the police vehicles and continued on.

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BROWN's vehicle was then pulled over by Deputy [redacted] [redacted] of the Aiken County Sheriff's Department. [redacted] instructed BROWN to get out of the vehicle. At this time six other police vehicles converged on the scene. [redacted] then reached in BROWN's vehicle and turned off the ignition, leaving the keys in place. [redacted] then told BROWN to exit the vehicle through the passenger door. At this time a policeman began kicking the vehicle door and hitting the vehicle with the butt of his gun. This resulted in a window being broken. Because of

44A-SV-3846

Continuation of FD-302 of JAMES JOSEPH BROWN On 3/15/89 Page 3

this violence BROWN decided to remain in his vehicle. He then locked the vehicle. BROWN stated that he was in fear for his life. A North Augusta policeman then shot and hit BROWN's truck at least eight times and another North Augusta policeman shot approximately nine times at the tires and hood. Other shots were also fired. BROWN later counted the bullet holes in his truck and these totalled twenty three. Two of these shots hit the gas tank and the tires were flat. BROWN became very afraid. Because of this fear BROWN started up his vehicle and drove away on the flat tires. He was followed by numerous police vehicles. BROWN then drove to the Augusta, Georgia residence of [redacted] a friend and a [redacted] Near [redacted] residence the truck became disabled. At this time approximately twenty policemen arrived on the scene. BROWN was pulled from his vehicle by the policeman and slammed against the side of his truck causing injury to his face and body. He was then placed in a police vehicle and taken to the Richmond County Jail in Augusta, Georgia. While sitting handcuffed at the jail awaiting the booking process, a white male, 5'4" tall, stocky, in plain clothes walked up to BROWN while he was still handcuffed and hit him on the left side of his jaw. This blow was totally unprovoked. The blow knocked loose a denture post of BROWN's teeth implant and caused much pain to him. Somewhat later a judge arrived and placed BROWN on bond. No extradition processing took place, however, two deputies then took BROWN to the Aiken County Hospital in Aiken, South Carolina, for a blood test. He was then taken to the Aiken County Jail where he remained overnight. The next day he appeared before a judge in Aiken and was released on bond.

In November, 1988, BROWN appeared for a jury trial in Aiken County, South Carolina, at which time he was found guilty and sentenced to six years in jail. In January, 1989, BROWN appeared in court in Richmond County, Georgia, at which time he was advised by his attorney to plead guilty. As a result he was sentenced to serve a six year concurrent sentence with the South Carolina sentence. BROWN is not sure what the charges were in Georgia.

The following descriptive data was obtained from observation and interview:

Name:	<u>JAMES JOSEPH BROWN</u>
Race:	<u>Black</u>
Sex:	<u>Male</u>
Date of Birth:	<u>May 3, 1933</u>

44A-SV-3846

Continuation of FD-302 of JAMES JOSEPH BROWN On 3/15/89 Page 4

Place of Birth: Barnwell County, South Carolina  
Height: 5'7"  
Weight: 182 pounds  
Hair: Black  
Eyes: Brown  
Employment: Entertainer  
Spouse: Adrienne Brown  
Social Security Number: [REDACTED]  
Residence: 430 Douglas Drive  
Beech Island, South Carolina

**Memorandum**

To : Assistant Attorney General  
**CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION**  
Attn: Daniel L. Bell

Date 4/13/89

From : Director, FBI

Subject : UNSUBS, OFFICERS, AUGUSTA, GEORGIA  
POLICE DEPARTMENT AND NORTH AUGUSTA  
SOUTH CAROLINA POLICE DEPARTMENT;  
JAMES JOSEPH BROWN, AKA; - VICTIM;  
ADRIENNE BROWN - COMPLAINANT;  
CIVIL RIGHTS  
OO: SAVANNAH

Field Office File Number 44 B . 3846

DOJ File Number \_\_\_\_\_

Reference: FBI memorandum dated 3/9/89, 1/27/89 telephone conversation between Deputy Chief  
Dan Bell and SSA [redacted]

Enclosed is one copy of: Columbia LHM dated 3/29/89.

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- Also enclosed is an Internal Affairs Report
- A. This is the initial communication in this matter:
- Type matter (Initial communication only)
- Brutality - Law Enforcement
  - Brutality - Nonlaw Enforcement
  - No Brutality - Law Enforcement
  - No Brutality - Nonlaw Enforcement
  - Racial Violence
  - ISS Matter
  - Death Case
- B. FBI Status-Pending
- C. FBI Status-Closed
- D. This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by the Federal Bureau of Investigation unless specifically requested by the Department of Justice.
- E. Due to the nature of this matter, it should receive your expeditious attention. Please contact the Civil Rights Unit, FBIHQ, Attn: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: In referenced telephone conversation, Mr. Bell requested a limited investigation into captioned matter. The enclosed LHM contains an FD-302 of the victim's interview. The complainant was previously interviewed and those results were furnished by referenced FBI memorandum dated 3/9/89. The Department is requested to advise the Civil Rights Unit, FBIHQ of its opinion as to whether further action is warranted. This matter will be maintained in pending status at FBIHQ until opinion is rendered.

MAIL ROOM   
POG:ljc

4/13/89 SENT BY COURIER  
DATE INITIAL JC